

The President. What's going to affect military——

Q. They're saying that they need more money—excuse me—they're not going to be able to be prepared for——

The President. Well, that's part of the review process. I hear—there are a lot of voices on a lot of subjects regarding the budget. We have yet to submit our budget; I will later on. But I have said during the campaign, I have said since I've been sworn in, it's important for us to do a top to bottom review, to review all missions, spending priorities, and that's exactly what the Secretary of Defense is going to do. And before people jump to conclusions, I think it's important to get that review finished.

Justice Department Budget

Q. What about the Justice Department? Are you asking for specific cuts in—[inaudible].

The President. We're looking at all—we've asked our Secretaries on all Cabinets to take a review of their full budgets, and we'll submit a budget here later on.

Office of National AIDS Policy

Q. Mr. President, on the subject of the AIDS Office, there are still some misunderstanding about whether there is going to be an AIDS czar, like——

The President. Well, there's going to be a focus on AIDS, and people can apply any title they want. But there's going to be a person in my office who has got the responsibility of coordinating the AIDS policy throughout the Federal Government.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. What did you say to Mr. Arafat?

The President. Oh, I had a good talk with Mr. Arafat. I've also had talks with other leaders throughout the region, and I urged calm. I said it was very important to give the newly elected leader of Israel a chance, a chance to form a government and a chance to do what he said he wanted to do, which is to promote the peace in the region. And

I certainly hope that people recognize that change does not necessarily mean that the peace process won't go forward.

I think we ought to take Mr. Sharon for his word, and that is he wants to promote peace in the Middle East. I look forward to watching him put a government together and then fulfilling what he said he would do.

Q. Are you concerned about the violence yesterday, the bombings?

The President. I'm concerned about all kinds of violence. But I firmly believe that the best policy is to encourage leaders to just remain resolute in their willingness to promote the peace and give the Sharon government a chance to form a government and then to be able to do what he said he wanted to do, which is to promote peace in the Middle East.

Have a good weekend, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:21 a.m. in Ms. Tentman's classroom. In his remarks, he referred to Gloria Dobbins, principal, J.C. Nalle Elementary School; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 4

The President traveled from Camp David, MD, to Farmington, PA, to attend a Democratic Party retreat.

February 5

The President had a working luncheon with Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark A. Weinberger to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Paul Wolfowitz to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

February 6

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon of Israel to congratulate Mr. Sharon on his electoral victory.

The White House announced that the President announced his intention to name Richard Haas as Director of Policy Planning for the State Department.

The White House announced that the President announced his intention to nominate Ambassador Marc Grossman to be Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

The White House announced that the President announced his intention to nominate Grant S. Green to be Under Secretary of State for Management.

February 8

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority and Sultan Qaboos of Oman.

The President announced his intention to nominate Senator Bill Frist to be one of two Senate representatives to the 55th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michele Davis to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Public Affairs.

February 9

In the morning, the President met with State and local superintendents of education in the Roosevelt Room. Later, he met separately in the Oval Office with Mardi Gras Queens, Utah Jazz basketball player Karl Malone, and a group of incumbent Louisiana politicians who recently switched their affiliations to the Republican Party. Later in the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with King Mohamed VI of Morocco and Prime Minister Giuliano Amato of Italy.

In the afternoon, the President went to Camp David, MD.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted February 6

Joe M. Allbaugh,
of Texas, to be Director of the Federal
Emergency Management Agency.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released February 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Election of Ariel Sharon as Prime Minister of Israel

Released February 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement: Principles for a Bipartisan Patients' Bill of Rights

Released February 8

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by National Economic Council Director Larry Lindsey on proposed tax cut legislation